

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02472 151633Z

44

ACTION EUR-01

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P R 151530Z APR 76
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PO
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. MBFR: COMMENTING ON VIENNA TALKS, COLUMNIST MANUEL RODRIGUES IN "O DIA" OF APRIL 15 SAID THAT UNDER PROPOSED MBFR TROOP WITHDRAWALS SOVIET FORCES "WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO CENTRAL EUROPE IN TWO OR THREE DAYS' MARCH, WHILE THE U.S. TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO UNDERTAKE A MUCH LONGER TRANSPORT OPERATION. SUSPENSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS PERHAPS HAS NO GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIPS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE PROSPECTS FOR AN ACCORD NEVER WERE VERY PROMISING. IT IS PROBABLE THAT ALL OF THIS MIRRORS THE LOSS OF MOMENTUM OF 'DETENT'. JAMES SCHLESINGER, FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, SAID A FEW DAYS AGO ON TELEVISION THAT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS HAD DROPPED NEARLY TO THE COLD-WAR LEVEL OF THE 1950'S."

2. SAKHAROV'S ARREST: APRIL 14 AND 15 NEWSPAPERS GIVE FRONT-PAGE PLAY TO DETENTION. SAMPLE HEADLINE, IN APRIL 15 "O DIA": "THE 'WIDESPREAD FREEDOMS' OF THE USSR: PHYSICIST SAKHAROV DETAINED BY POLICE UPON ARRIVAL IN SIBERIA."

3. COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENTS: PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE
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NEWSPLAY TO U.S. OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS RE EFFECT OF

COMMUNISTS IN NATO GOVERNMENTS. APRIL 14 "DIARIO
POPULAR" HEADLINED REUTERS WASHINGTON-DATELINED STORY
QUOTING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS TO THE ASNE AS
FOLLOWS: "KISSINGER BELIEVES IN AN ITALIAN VICTORY BY
THE COMMUNIST PARTY."
HOWARD

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NNN

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